

Genesis 4:9

***Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"
He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"***

I think we all know the story of Cain and Abel, who were the two sons of Adam and Eve. But let's back up one verse to see what was happening, and what God was talking to Cain about.

† **Genesis 4:8** *Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.*

So we are all familiar with Cain murdering his brother Abel, and we are even familiar with his response when God asked him about it, which was, ***"I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"*** But, as I was reading this, something stood out to me that actually isn't there, and it's in Cain's response. You don't see it? Well it's not there, so there is nothing to see. But what is missing from Cain's response to God, is that he didn't blame his sin on his dad or mom (Adam and Eve). He never said, *"Hey God, I murdered my brother because my mom and dad sinned by eating of the tree that they weren't supposed to eat from, so it runs in the family and it's their fault."*

Yet how many want to blame how they were brought up, or how their parent's or grandparent's or even their siblings, are the reason they live a sinful lifestyle. I know for me, both my mom and dad were alcoholics, and growing up, I never was an alcoholic, but my party lifestyle matched theirs, but when I became a Christian, I never blamed my parents for the way I lived and for my sins. I knew I had a choice to be like them or not.

Going back to Cain and Abel, remember when God accepted Abel's offering but not Cain's, and what God said to Cain?

† **Genesis 4:7** *"If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."*

God never said to Cain that since his dad and mom (Adam and Eve) sinned that that was why he murdered his brother. No, God laid it out on the line that he had a choice to sin or not to (***if you do not do well, sin lies at the door***). To do good or not do good, no excuses and no blaming someone else or the way you were brought up.

If you think about it, Cain and Abel had the same parents and were both brought up in the same house and the same way, and they both had their own free will to follow the Lord or not. What it boils down to is that Abel chose to follow the Lord, and Cain chose not to.

We all have the same choice, and we are all responsible for our own decisions that we make. So stop trying to blame someone else for what you have done or your lifestyle, be it your parents, your siblings, your friends, the neighborhood you grew up in, or even God for your bad or wrong choices. God won't say when you get to heaven that He will let you in because your parents didn't raise you right, or that it was those darn TV shows that you watched that caused you to sin, or the music you listened to, or that guy or girl who took advantage of you, or.....

† **1 Corinthians 6:8-11** *No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren! Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

Did you catch verse 11 *“and such were some of you”* So, which one, or ones were you before you came to Jesus, or maybe you are even now without Jesus. The bible also says that *“You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.”* Colossians 2:13 (NLT2)

We all have a sinful past, and some of you still have a sinful present, because you have not given your life to Jesus. But the thing is that believers realize that making up excuses or blaming others for their sins and lifestyle won't do a thing for them, and we simply do what the bible says, and that's to confess our sins, repent, and not give excuses or blame someone else for them.

† **1 John 1:9-10** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

Did you catch verse 10 *“If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”* When you give excuses or blame others for your sins then then you are saying that you *“have not sinned”*, and you *“make Him a liar, and His word is not in”* you.

The choice is yours, continue blaming others and refuse to repent, or simply confess your sins and be forgiven.

† **Job 1:22** (NLT2) *In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God.*

† **2 Samuel 12:13** *So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.”*